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THOUSANDS OF VICTIMS BEG FOR FOOD AND WATER

Time Increases Horror of Situation in Italy's Earthquake District and Brings No Decrease in Estimates of Casualties.

ESTIMATE OF 115,000 DEAD MAY BE LOW

King and Queen Visit Messina and Reggio and Personally Assist the Rescuers—Foreign Ships Rendering Noble Service Along Coast.

Rome, Dec. 31.—Slowly the measure of the disaster that has depopulated Calabria and Sicily is being taken, and as reports accumulate it is seen the first estimate has in no sense exaggerated the extent and horror of the visitation. An official estimate places the dead at 115,000, but there is reason to believe this may be greatly exceeded.

SURVIVORS CLAIM ATTENTION.
Today the pitiable sight of the survivors claims universal attention. Relief of their suffering calls for the concentrated effort of all nations. Countless thousands of half-demented, naked and starving survivors, some wounded and some uninjured, are crying pitifully for food and water, clothing, shelter, and medical attention.

GRISCOM GOING TO SCENE.
It is reported several Americans lost their lives in the wreck of the hotel at Messina.

Ambassador Griscom is about to set out from Rome for the south, in an endeavor to secure information concerning missing American travelers.

MORE ESTIMATES MADE.
The latest estimates of the dead at Palmi and Bagnara are 14,000 and 12,000, respectively. Two thousand soldiers were killed at Reggio. At Santa Eufemia 1,500 are dead and the injured exceed that number.

The survivors say for half an hour before the quake the heavens were filled with a gorgeous display of light resembling the aurora borealis.

NEED 25,000 TO HELP.
It is declared an army of no less than 25,000 men will be needed to rescue the living who are still entrapped in the ruins, and to bury the dead.

King Reports from Reggio.
Rome, Dec. 31.—King Emmanuel, who left Messina last night with Queen Helena, arrived early today at Reggio. After visiting the town in company with the queen, he embarked on a warship, and sent the following wireless telegram to Premier Giolitti:

"I return from Reggio, which I found in a condition no less disastrous than that at Messina. A Russian warship with 500 wounded on board will arrive at Naples this morning, and everything must be prepared for their landing and housing. Another Russian ship will carry wounded to Syracuse."

Regiment of Infantry Drowned?
Reggio, Dec. 31.—There is reason to believe a regiment of infantry was drowned by the tidal wave at Palmi. Three hundred soldiers' bodies have already been recovered.

As a precautionary measure against an outbreak of pestilence the bodies of persons killed in the earthquake are being burned and strong disinfectants are being strewn among the ruins of the city. Troops have set up field kitchens and are baking bread in the streets.

Never Greater Tragedy.
Naples, Dec. 31.—Time only confirms the unspeakable horrors of the overpowering catastrophe. History perhaps never will divulge its supremest individual tragedies, for earth and sea ruthlessly claimed thousands of human beings, and the flames mercilessly completed the unfinished devastation.

Naples, vibrant with the memory of Vesuvius, is prostrated anew at the misery and woe from Messina confided to its care. The hotels and homes are crowded with refugees, and the people are vying with one another in aiding the stricken.

One who has explicit knowledge on the subject agrees that the center of the cataclysm was the Strait of Messina, which also is the center of the volcanic zone, whose highest peak is Etna. From this base the Telluric disturbance extended, abating little by little, northerly as far as Cape Vaticano and southerly as far as the Bay of Catania, ravaging the western region of Calabria and the eastern coast of Sicily for a distance of nearly 100 miles.

Land Irrevocably Ruined.
It is impossible accurately to ascertain the extent of the movement east and west in the inland regions, but it is certain that the beauty of one of the most charming sections of southern Italy has been irrevocably despoiled. Vineyards are no more; waving rows of lemon, orange and olive trees have been torn up, and the enchanting coast line, with its soft and fragrant foliage, has been converted into a hideous desert.

Reggio, whose gay aspect set off the severity of the mountains, and Palmi, perched jauntily amid orange and olive trees, have become mere blots on the horizon.

Save Millions From Messina Branch of the Bank of Italy

Catania, Dec. 31.—News from Messina sets forth that some progress is being made in the work of succoring the wounded survivors, but no attempt is being made to remove the wreckage. Troops and sailors have been obliged to shoot down robbers who persisted in looting. The entire local treasury of the Messina branch of the Bank of Italy, \$2,000,000, has been saved and is on board an Italian warship.

The fires at Messina have not yet been put out and there is no water with which to combat the flames. Many people still refuse to leave the ruins of their houses. Force often is necessary to get them to the ships in the harbor. There are large numbers in the suburbs of Messina who will

penitentiary. It was argued that the accused men were robbing their employers by using up gasoline and axle grease and by wearing out the tires.

The Automobile Club of America was much interested in the proceedings, owing to the fact that there are the first convictions for offenses of this nature. After sentence had been imposed lawyers for that association announced that they would appeal to the appellate division in an effort to have a law placed in the code making "joy riding" constitute grand larceny.

Nothing remains of the city but a mass of ruins that have been swept by fire. A few survivors are being cared for by the rescuing forces, but their distress is great and it has been increased by the violent icy winds that followed the deluge of rain. Desolation is everywhere and appalling. There is little food and less water. Of Messina's 90,000 population it is

THE FINISH



BATTLESHIP FLEET NOW IN RED SEA MAY BE HASTENED TO ITALIAN COAST TO GIVE SUCH AID AS IS POSSIBLE

Washington, Dec. 31.—The matter of dispatching the fleet of 16 American battleships, now making its way through the Red sea, to assist in alleviating the distress of southern Italy is under consideration by the authorities here. Although the fleet could not reach Messina before January 15, it is believed the ships with their 15,000

thoroughly disciplined sailors, splendid corps of medical officers and surgeons, abundant supplies of medicines and food would be very welcome visitors to the shores of Sicily, even at that late date.

Will Ask Congress to Give.
Washington, Dec. 31.—It is learned today from an authoritative source the president will on Monday next deliver to congress a message urging a liberal appropriation for the relief of earthquake sufferers in Italy.

Given Navy Rations.
New York, Dec. 31.—The United States naval supply ship, Celtic, will sail from port today with 1,500,000 navy rations for the Italian earthquake sufferers. The rations were intended to supply the battleship fleet but the navy department has authorized the delivery of the supplies to the destitute Italians and Sicilians.

Some Big Donations.
New York, Dec. 31.—The United States Steel corporation today contributed \$25,000, the Standard Oil company \$10,000, Adolphus Busch of St.

Louis \$25,000, Mrs. Russell Sage \$5,000 for the relief of the Italian earthquake sufferers.

Red Cross Responds.
Washington, Dec. 31.—Contributions already at hand from the Red Cross branches throughout the United States give promise of general help for the Italian sufferers. As a starter \$50,000 was sent to the Italian Red Cross today.

Small Cyclone at Sterling.
Sterling, Ill., Dec. 31.—A small cyclone blew down three smokestacks on the Sterling gas plant yesterday, killing John Royce of Rushville, Ill., and seriously injuring Jacob J. Snyder of this city.

SOME ARE SAFE
Chicagoans For Whom Fears Were Entertained Alive and Well in Southern Italy.

MANY OTHERS IN DOUBT
State Department Takes Steps to Communicate News to Anxious Relatives Here.

Chicago, Dec. 31.—A private cablegram was received today announcing the safety of the following Chicagoans, for whose safety fears had been felt: Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Baur, Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. William J. Hibbard, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. O. J. Elger, Misses Matilda, Louise and Bertha Trainer, Harry K. Owsley, T. A. Griffin, and Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Pridmore.

Ninety-Six Guests in One Hotel.
Paris, Dec. 31.—A dispatch from Rome says 96 guests, including Americans, English and French travelers, were staying at the Hotel Trivulzio, Messina, when the city was destroyed. They all perished. The proprietor of Trinacria alone escaped. There are only two survivors of the guests who were quartered in Hotel de France.

State Department Active.
Washington, Dec. 31.—Every effort is being made by the state department to obtain news of the American citizens who were in the earthquake zone in Italy and whose fate has caused their friends much uneasiness. Ambassador Griscom at Rome was directed to cable promptly any information obtainable regarding the missing people and to send some of the American vice consuls in Italy to the scene of distress to render whatever aid is possible. Efforts are being made to keep in communication with the deputy consul, Lupton, at Messina, to the end that prompt advices may reach here regarding any American in trouble there.

SHERIFFS ELECT OFFICERS
Peters of Cook County Is Placed on Executive Committee.

Springfield, Ill., Dec. 31.—After adopting the report of the special legislation committee condemning in no uncertain terms the proposed law in relation to courts and listening to several interesting addresses the following officers were elected yesterday for

the ensuing year by the Illinois Sheriffs' association:

President—Charles E. Wenner, Sangamon county.

Vice president—M. E. Bray, Montgomery county.

Treasurer—C. A. Hamilton, Whiteside county.

Secretary—Chief Deputy Long, Sangamon county.

An executive committee was elected to consist of the following: Sheriffs Peters of Cook county, McGorray of Macon county, Haese of Peoria county, Richardson of Kane county, Johnson of Christian county and Deputy Sheriff Slovall of Douglas county.

The association voted to hold its annual meeting in this city during the state fair next year.

WRIGHT BREAKS MARK AT CLOSE OF THE OLD YEAR
Lemans, France, Dec. 31.—Wilbur Wright beat all previous aeroplane records this afternoon with a magnificent flight that lasted two hours, nine minutes.

DEMAND FOR HARMONY FATAL TO HIS AMBITION

C. P. Taft, Brother of President-Elect, Out of Senatorial Race.

STRENGTH TO BURTON
Issues a Statement Placing Himself in Light of a Willing Martyr.

Columbus, Dec. 31.—Definite announcement is made from his headquarters today that Charles P. Taft has withdrawn from the senatorial race "in the interest of party harmony." It is also stated the Hamilton county delegation, the backbone of the Taft strength, would be delivered to Burton, thus insuring his election as successor to Senator Foraker.

He Was Misunderstood.
In the statement that was issued by Taft he says:

"My candidacy from the beginning seemed to have been misunderstood. I have been represented as urging my own personal ambition at the expense of republican harmony and success. The imputation is unjust; but that is of no moment at the present time. The cause of it shall exist no longer. I yield personal ambition for the accomplishment of more important things."

Always a Republican.
After stating he had been a sincere and consistent republican all his life, and that it has long been his ambition to be a senator from Ohio, he continued:

"Conditions have now arisen which impose a higher duty upon me than the gratification of any personal ambition. It is clear that a prolonged contest for the senatorship would divide the republican party in Ohio, and I am not willing to be in any way responsible for such division."

Insists His Chances Were Good.
"Although it does not appear at present any candidate has enough votes to win the caucus nomination, and though many of my friends insist I can and will beat, I put these considerations aside in order to meet more worthy obligations. I withdraw as candidate for senator, and with grateful appreciation release my friends from further effort in my behalf."

Will Be Wheel Horse as of Yore.
"I will resume my place in the councils of the republican party and give to its welfare and to the splendid policies for which it stands the same service and devotion which have been the great privilege and pride of my life."

Foraker Out, Too.
Columbus, Dec. 31.—Senator Foraker at noon issued a statement formally withdrawing from the senatorial fight. This leaves the field practically clear for Burton. Foraker says he is gratified that matters have turned out the way they have, that he himself is willing at all times to make personal sacrifice in the interests of party unity. The withdrawal of Taft, he declared, cleared the situation and made his candidacy no longer necessary.

Others Step Aside.
Governor Harris and J. Warren Keifer have withdrawn. Former Lieutenant Governor Harding will withdraw.

Pope Grants a Dispensation.
Washington, Dec. 31.—Mgr. Falconio, papal delegate to the United States, last night announced that the pope had given a dispensation from abstinence on New Year's day, which falls on Friday.

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE BESTED
Secretary Wilson Says No New Outbreaks Have Been Reported Since December 18.

Washington, Dec. 31.—"I believe we've about gotten the foot and mouth disease corralled," declared Secretary of Agriculture Wilson today. "No new outbreaks of the disease have been found since that which occurred in Snyder county, Pennsylvania, Dec. 18," continued the secretary. "I want to emphasize, however, we are letting up in our investigations very slowly because if we didn't foreign countries might quarantine against the whole United States, as they are very suspicious of getting infection."

STUDENT MISSING SINCE SEPT. 22 FOUND
Willis E. Smith, Supposed Victim of Hazards With Relatives at Owensboro, Ky.

Lexington, Ky., Dec. 31.—Willis E. Smith, the member of the freshman class of Kentucky state university who mysteriously disappeared Sept. 22 after having been hazed and was supposed to have been shipped out, locked in a box car, was located last night at Owensboro, Ky., where his brothers and sisters live. He talked incoherently and was unable to give any accurate account of where he had been, but told wild stories of having been detained in a cave in northern Wisconsin and fed on bear meat. He said he had left the university unwillingly but could give no clear explanation of where he had been for the last three months.

IRREGULARITIES IN DENVER FUEL
Iowa Men File Application for An Accounting of Important Colorado Concern.

Denver, Dec. 31.—Iowa stockholders in the Denver and Northwestern Fuel company filed a petition for an accounting in the federal court yesterday against six Denver men in which they charge the misapplication of funds and wrongful transfer of stock and property of the company to the Union Land company.

MISSISSIPPI "DRY" TODAY
Prohibition Law Becomes Effective 24 Hours Earlier Than Expected.

Jackson, Miss., Dec. 31.—At midnight last night the sale of liquor in Mississippi became unlawful, according to an opinion announced by Attorney General Stirling. Because of a conflict of opinion as to the construction of the recently enacted state-wide prohibition law in reference to the time when the enactment should become effective, the matter was referred to the attorney general for official interpretation. In his opinion the attorney general declares that as the act reads it shall become effective "on and after Dec. 31."

LEWIS NIXON SAYS COMPANY HAS BEEN FORMED TO BUILD BIG AIRSHIP
New York, Dec. 31.—Lewis Nixon, expert engineer and shipbuilder, is authority for the statement that the Aerial Navigation company, with a capital of \$50,000,000, has been organized.

"An airship 700 feet long, with a diameter of 80 feet and passenger room for 100 persons, will be built in the Nixon yards, and a few guns may be mounted," said Mr. Nixon.

"The ship will be expected to carry food and fuel enough for a trip across the ocean. It will cost \$1,000,000 and when completed the ship probably will weigh 140 tons. It has been most carefully thought out in every detail by Mr. Pennington—'Airship Pennington' as he has been known—and the shape of the vessel, as well as the arrangement

of the motive power and many other details, are original with him. He has been at work on them for 12 years and some of his patents on features of this ship were obtained 12 years ago.

"We have been working every day on the design for the ship. I have been asked to act as consulting engineer. Of the personnel of the company I know little.

"Thurlof Weed Barnes, who has been known in connection with Chinese railway operation, is mentioned as the president. Mr. Pennington tells me that very important and wealthy men are in the directorate. There is no reason to doubt the perfect success of this ship. It will involve a gas envelope inclosed in aluminum."

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